



Prince Edward Island Premier Robert Ghiz (left) officially declared September 18 - 25th 2009 as Biotechnology Week in Prince Edward Island. Accepting the declaration is Ron Keefe, Chair, Prince Edward Island BioAlliance and CEO, BioVectra Inc.

September 18, 2009, Charlottetown, PE – PEI Premier Robert Ghiz has declared the week of September 18-25th, 2009 as Biotechnology Week in Prince Edward Island. Premier Ghiz spoke to a group of local and international bioscience companies, as well as other members of the PEI Bioscience Cluster at an International BioPartnering Mission held in Charlottetown recently.

The proclamation is being made in recognition of the growing impact the bioscience industry is making on the province's economy with new job opportunities in business, research and development and support services.

Partners in the Prince Edward Island Bioscience Cluster, including 30 companies, 10 research and educational institutions and federal and provincial government agencies are working collaboratively to establish the conditions for business growth, scientific excellence, and increasing job opportunities in the province. The PEI Bioscience Cluster is becoming known as a location of choice for companies engaged in the research, development and commercialization of bioactive-based human and animal health and nutrition products.

In his remarks to the BioPartnering participants, PEI Premier Robert Ghiz said his government believes the Bioscience sector holds a great promise for the future of our economy.

"The government of PEI is investing in people, in innovation and infrastructure to strengthen productivity, competitiveness, and commercialization opportunities in all sectors of the provincial economy," said Premier Robert Ghiz. "We are creating new economic opportunities and long-term jobs for Islanders all across PEI."

Ron Keefe, Chair of the Board of Directors of the PEI BioAlliance and CEO, BioVectra Inc. says National Biotechnology Week is a great opportunity to showcase what PEI is doing in the areas of bioscience research and product development both here at home and nationally.

"Islanders are becoming more aware of the exciting job opportunities that bioscience businesses and research organizations are creating for their children and grandchildren here at home," said Keefe. "It reinforces for our young people the importance of educational achievement if they want to be part of the action."

National Biotechnology Week activities will also include a special BioNetworking Speaker Event being held Monday, September 21st at the Joan and Regis Duffy Research Centre at UPEI. Dr. Stephen Burke, Executive Director of the North Carolina BioFuels Centre will be guest speaker.

The Canadian bio-based economy is the third largest in the world. National Biotechnology Week is an opportunity to celebrate scientific advances, entrepreneurs and innovative companies that contribute to our country's \$78.3 billion bio-economy. That number totaled 6.4 percent of Canada's gross domestic product (GDP) last year—more than either the aerospace or automotive industries.

PEI's recent proclamation coincides with Canada's National Biotechnology Week program involving a series of events across the country in celebration of the biotechnology industry. For more information about Biotechnology Week activities in Prince Edward Island and across the country, visit www.peibioalliance.com.

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